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March 9th
Minor St. No 2 Jones-

An Inaugural Dissertation

on

Marasmus

Henry Holcombe

admitted March 21st 1821.

Widow's Fund

Interest

Interest year

1881 - We want timber

Required at this early period of my medical education to perform a task in which now but those who possess the advantages of superior talent and extensive experience can excel, I can only derive encouragement from the consideration that many whose situation is similar to my own, are subjected to the same ordeal and must receive their sentence from the same judges. I can therefore aspire to no higher object than the credit which a comparison with such may reflect upon me, which I confess will be founded rather upon the absence of defect than the exhibition of real worth.

But with whatever reluctance I may enter on the task of making a display of my medical and literary acquirements and subject myself to a trial in which I can expect an acquittal only from the lenity of my judges, I will not complain of a practice which I am bound to believe is founded on wisdom and whose utility is acknowledged by its continuance.

The choice of a subject for my Thesis, I found to be not the least difficulty that I had to encounter

and we are bound to do what we can
and believe in that a majority of Americans have
good feelings for us and are with us and are anxious to see us
prosperous with our neighbors. It will however be
an effort to get men to believe in us and
we must work with them to make them believe in
the right thing in the right way. We
have no place that corresponds to India where
we can get the Indians to believe in India and
believe in their own country and try to make it
so in our own country without being
afraid to lose our independence. We
are afraid to lose our independence because we
are afraid to lose our independence because we
are afraid to lose our independence because we

and the only excuse I can offer for that which I have adopted, a subject which has already employed more able pens, is that I did not hope to produce any thing original upon any subject nor did I suppose it would be required of me. Somewhat indifferent, therefore, to the merits of the subject, I have chosen Marasmus the history of which I will endeavour to detail.

Although Marasmus cannot be supposed to be a disease of recent origin, yet it does not appear to have attracted much attention from medical writers until within the last few years.

Marasmus is not peculiar to any age or sex but adults are less liable to it than infants, in whom the disease is more strikingly manifested and is, perhaps, more generally fatal.

A child affected with marasmus sleeps more than usual, but its rest is frequently interrupted; it cries a great deal and refuses consolation. Its appetite is greater than usual, it eats more but with less ap-

painful effect as regards desire for food and growth of the body. The belly becomes enlarged while other parts exhibit general emaciation. The faeces vary in regard to quantity, colour and consistence, being at one time gel low, at others green, brown or black. Sometimes watery and sometimes viscid. These alterations do not appear to observe any rule in the order of their succession. These symptoms are attended by fever and considerable languor and prostration of strength. A spasmodic cough has also been observed to attend the progress of Marasmus, which alternates in its accession with an eruption of the skin, and both of these affections disappear when a diarrhoea takes place, which frequently happens towards the termination of the disease.

The insidious manner in which Marasmus makes its approaches is perhaps the most disagreeable trait in its character. The increased appetite and drowsiness which first appear, are placed to the account of the rapid growth of childhood, and thus an opportunity is given

de la que se ha de tener en cuenta que el resultado de la
operación es la mejor y más segura forma de curar la
enfermedad. Debe ser realizada con mucha
cuidado y atención de no dañar las arterias que
abastecen al testículo. La operación debe ser
realizada por un cirujano experimentado.
Si se observa que el testículo no ha
respondido a la terapia médica, se debe
realizar una exploración quirúrgica para
descartar la posibilidad de que exista
una enfermedad que no sea la hidrocole.
En estos casos, la cirugía es la mejor
solución. La operación consiste en la
remoción del saco que rodea el testículo y
que impide su normal funcionamiento.
La cirugía es una intervención menor
que no requiere hospitalización y se realiza
en un consultorio o en un centro de
salud. La recuperación es rápida y completa.

on to the morbid agents to establish their influence on the system, before they develop their true character.

The first step towards the eradication of the disease is to discover the cause upon which its existence depends. The futility of directing our efforts against certain symptoms while we neglect their origin, is demonstrated by abundant experience.

Mascomy has been ascribed to various causes. Worms in some instances have been charged with the production of the disease; teething and convulsive fits have also been considered as among the causes. Sipections post mortem show the mesenteric glands to have been affected, which has given rise to the idea that mascomy was the consequence of obstruction in these glands. The disease may arise from these causes but it does not appear to me that they are equal to so great an effect. We should rather look to the alimentary canal for the seat of the first symptoms of mascomy. We find the intestines filled with all manner of acid and offensive matter, constipated and in a state of such debility

that digestion is very slowly and imperfectly performed.

Cathartics are perhaps never more strongly indicated than in the disease in question. A single dose of calomel, which should be preferred to other purgatives, will frequently expel immense loads of unnatural feculent matter from the bowels to the great relief of the patient: but inasmuch as similar accumulations will subsequently take place, we can in no case depend on a single dose, nor should we be disappointed or disengaged if Cathartics should for a considerable time appear to be but transitory palliatives. Perseverance in their use will demonstrate their virtue. -

From the unnatural appearance of the faces in many resembling those in cases of hepatic derangement, and from the circumstance that a copious bilious diarrhoea marked the crisis of the disease, it was very natural to suppose that the Liver was the seat and fountain of all the miseries. Accordingly, remedies were applied which even calculated to act on that viscus

and we have had no trouble
in getting to the lake. We
are now in good position before starting home.
The time has passed too rapidly and
the weather is becoming hot and humid
so we are ready for departure. You
will do me the favor to let him know that
we expect to be home in time to attend
the wedding of a young man from
Bremen that will be celebrated next
Sunday. We hope to get a cold drink
at the hotel where we will stay
and then go to bed to cool off again.
I am sending you the last page of the
newspaper so you will see what I mean
about the cold water. It may be
hard for you to believe but it was so cold
that I could not get the last page out of
the paper without breaking it. It's cold

and also on the Stomach, which had become sympathetically affected; and their success was a happy illustration of the necessity of both theory and example in medicine. I allude to the practice formerly employed by Professor Miller of New York which consisted in the exhibition of very small doses of calomel, frequently repeated throughout the day. This medicine was observed to quiet the uneasiness of the stomach, when such existed, to correct the fates of the alvine discharge and otherwise to render them more natural, to reestablish the bilious supply and eventually to remove all appearance of disease. Although calomel in small doses is generally successful, cases may occur in which the assistance of other medicines will be required.

Constipation and large collections of hardened feces are very common in Malaria. Here the utility of cathartics is clearly indicated; for although the calomel may in time remove scybala and establish a regular motion. Yet as the unnatural contents of the bowels may be and undoubtedly are a source

of irritation, pain or derangement of the healthy functions they ought to be removed as soon as possible. I would therefore commence the treatment of every case of Marasmus with a cathartic. The warm bath has also been recommended. When fever is present it may be useful. The diet of the patient should be light and easy of digestion and his clothing should be warm.

The doctrine of the hepatic origin of Marasmus has lately been supported in a work written by Dr. Syre of Edinburgh. This gentleman differs from those who have considered constipation as the cause of marasmus in supposing it to be a consequence of biliary derangement. He considers it as analogous to the Billious disease of adults and describes it as appearing under two distinct forms or stages the acute and the chronic.

The chronic form of the disease is that which I have already described; the other is distinguished by a loss of appetite, thirst and a

say that it is important and valuable
that a man is taught at a young age and with
the proper method to receive what knowledge
he may have by another a true appreciation
of things past and the present and of
the future in the hope that he may be
able to do his duty to his family and
country by applying all he has learned
to the best of his ability and with
the proper method of education will the
knowledge he has received be of value
to him in the future the man will
be able to do his duty to his family and
country by applying all he has learned

considerable degree of fever. -

Acknowledging the difference which is due to the opinions of a writer who appears to have devoted a considerable attention to his subject, with the aid of much experience, I confess that the form of disease which he calls the first stage of Marasmus does not appear to me to be entitled to such an arrangement.

The term Marasmus, does not give an idea of an active or acute disease; its symptoms are rather of a negative character. The food is not well digested; indicating a want of tone in the organs appropriated to that purpose. The body is therefore deprived of that supply which it continually demands; and it would appear that all the other symptoms could be referred to this cause with more propriety than to any other of a more positively active nature. Besides in the diseases of children there is some difficulty generally in distinguishing between several, which may be in some particulars, apparently similar. There are few diseases, if any,

that can be said to be unattended by Fever; and
thirst and loss of substance are the common conse-
quences of febrile action.

From these data, then, I think it might be ar-
gued, that Dr. Aye has not established the exis-
tence of what he terms the acute stage of Marasmus,
but has been deceived by some other disease. -

A degree of fever may, indeed, be excited by an
unnatural biliary secretion, but as I do not con-
ceive that it would materially affect the general
disease; particularly as such extraordinary secre-
tions generally give rise to diarrhea, by which the
superabundant bile is discharged. -

I do not think that a new species ought to
be formed upon the basis of an occurrence which
may reasonably be deemed accidental. -

and much of importance is a book of our best
poetry composed with an introduction by the man himself.
The author is a man of great ability, he seems
to be a man of great character, and with much
sense of justice and truth, and a well known
writer of great worth. His work is today, as
it always will be, a valuable and useful book
for all students of literature, particularly for young
men who are to enter into public life. It will also
be a great service to all who are interested in
the history of our country, and in the progress of
our literature.







